

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 AF-10 EUR-25 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 078330

P R 251852Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRVXRITY 278

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8615

E.O.&11652: GDS

TAGS:SPFOR, PINT, SY, IZ, JO

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SYRIA

1. MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS DIRECTOR VERED OF MFA TOLD EMBOFF
OCTOBER 25 THERE IS MAJOR STRUGGLE GOING ON WITHIN SARG OVER
WHETHER TO CONTINUE WAR OR NOT. IRAQI FORCES NUMBERING THIRTY
TO FORTY THOUSAND ARE IN SYRIA, DEMANDING CONTINUATION OF WAR
AND AWAITING RIGHT MOMENT TO INTERVENE IN INTERNAL
SARG STRUGGLE, PERHAPS BY FORCE.

2. MRS VERED SAID ASAD REGIME APPEARS IN SOME DANGER OF
COLLAPSE, EVEN IF IRAQIS DO NOT INTERVENE BY FORCE. SHE
ADDED THAT JORDANIAN FORCES IN SYRIA DO NOT COUNTERBALANCE
IRAQI PRESENCE IN POLITICAL TERMS BECAUSE IT IS EVIDENT
THEY PROBABLY WOULD NOT INTERVENE MILITARILY IN EVENT IRAQIS DO SO.

3. COMMENT. MFA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY CAUTIOUS IN
DESCRIBING OFFICIAL GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD SYRIA'S ACCEPTANCE
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OF CEASEFIRE AND RESOLUTION 338. AT THIS POINT, GOI POSTURE,

THEREFORE, IS BEST DESCRIBED AS "IF THEY DON'T SHOOT, WE DON'T SHOOT."

4. ISRAELI MEDIA HAVE REFLECTED GENERAL GOI CAUTION SAYING THAT GOI TOOK VIEW THAT SYRIA HAD NOT YET FORMALLY ACCEPTED CEASEFIRE BECAUSE ITS MESSAGE TO UNSYG DID NOT MEET PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS OF A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, DID NOT SPECIFY TIME FOR CEASEFIRE, AND POSED IRRELEVANT CONDITIONS. IF GOI ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN INTERNAL SITUATION IS ALONG LINES GIVEN US BY MRS VERED ABOVE, IT IS POSSIBLE GOI WILL HOLD OFF OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGING SYRIA'S REPORTED ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE AND RESOLUTION 338 UNTIL SITUATION IN SYRIA CLARIFIES ITSELF.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY PLANS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV08615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KEATING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731011/aaaaahsi.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN SYRIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY, IZ, JO, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005